

REMARKS

The election/restriction requirement dated March 23, 2007 holds that this application contains claims directed to two patentably distinct species. More specifically, Applicants are required to elect one of the following patentably distinct species for prosecution on the merits under 35 U.S.C. §121:

Species I - Figures 1-3, 6, and 18; and

Species II - Figures 4-5, 7-17, and 19-22.

Additionally, the Office Action indicates that no claim is generic.

In response, Applicants hereby elect Species I illustrated in Figures 1-3, 6, and 18 **without** traverse. The Office Action states that no claims appear to be generic and that claim 1 appears to be drawn to Species II. Applicants respectfully disagree with regards to claim 1 being a non-generic claim. Referring to Figure 1 of the present application, claim 1 recites a flywheel assembly having a flywheel, which can be represented by reference character 21, a damper mechanism, which can be represented by reference character 6, that connects the flywheel 21 to a crankshaft, which can be represented by reference character 2, and a support member, which can be represented by reference character 37, that supports and positions the flywheel 21 on the crankshaft 2 in a radial direction. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 recites a flywheel assembly of Species I. Further, Applicants respectfully assert that the flywheel assembly shown in Figures 4-5, 7-17, and 19-22 can be configured with a release device as stated in paragraph [0089]. Applicants respectfully assert that the aforementioned figures and reference characters are used for example only and are not intended to limit the invention thereto. Applicants agree that claim 1 is *also* drawn to Species II. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that at least claim 1 is generic.

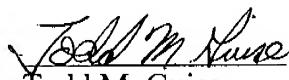
Appl. No. 10/823,709
Amendment dated May 4, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 23, 2007

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 1-5 and 7-20 because they are believed to read on the elected species shown in Figures 1-3, 6, and 18. Claim 6 is believed to be directed to a non-elected embodiment. Thus, this claim can be withdrawn from consideration in this case. However, Applicants respectfully request that these non-elected claims be considered upon the allowance of a generic claim in accordance with U.S. patent practice.

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Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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